

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were again rejected as being obvious in view of a combination of the disclosures of the previously cited Matsuda and Tsunoda patents. By this response, however, the seven remaining claims have been amended in a manner which is believed to provide patentable distinctions over the cited references.

In this regard, Applicant notes that the claimed invention is an image reading apparatus with a moving optical unit that requires a screw having plastically deformable projections on its threads. The projecting portions are provided on a root of the screw, at an area other than at a tip thereof. As described in the Specification, this configuration is useful to avoid play in the mounting of the moving optical unit, so that vibration can be alleviated during scanning operations.

In the cited prior art Applicant notes that the Tsunoda patent describes that a sliding member 108 slides in contact with a slider 115, and a screw 119 which is provided to hold a rotating groove 111b (adjusting relative position of a base plate 114 and the slider 115) on the base plate 114 is mounted in a screw hole of the base plate 114. However, a head of the screw 119 does not slide in contact the slider 115. In addition, if the screw 119 is rotated, the relative position of the base plate 114 and the slider 115 cannot be adjusted, and, a root of the thread of screw 119 does not have a plurality of projecting portions which are plastically deformable.

The cited Matsuda patent also fails to disclose these same features that are absent from the disclosure of the Tsunoda patent.

Accordingly, it is believed that the claims as now presented are allowable over the cited references, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Respectfully submitted,

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FCBS_WS 2939413v1